

2014 Ohio Candidate Requirement Guide



My  vote

My Right • My Responsibility

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Candidate Requirement Guide: A User's Guide

If you are considering running for office in Ohio, this guide can help you navigate the legal requirements to get your name on the ballot. This guide is only a brief summary and not a complete digest of the laws. The information in this guide is current as of July 2013. Legislative or judicial action may change the information in this guide. For the most up-to-date information, visit the Ohio Secretary of State's website at www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov. Refer to sections below for the office that you are seeking:

- [U.S. Representative](#)
- [Statewide Executive Offices](#)
- [Ohio General Assembly](#)
- [State Board of Education](#)
- [County Offices](#)
- [Judicial Offices](#)
- [Political Party Members](#)

Each of these sections contains information on the terms of office and the conditions candidates must meet, such as residency requirements, minimum or maximum ages or other necessary qualifications, such as legal experience. Each office also has different petition filing requirements, such as deadlines, forms, filing fees and locations, and number of signatures needed.

Within this guide:

- "OH Const" refers to the Ohio Constitution (www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov),
- "R.C." refers to the Revised Code of Ohio (visit codes.ohio.gov for more), and
- "OAG" refers to an Opinion of the Ohio Attorney General (www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov).



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Federal Offices

Candidates for federal office must also comply with specific federal laws. For more information, contact the Federal Elections Commission at (800) 424-9530 or at www.fec.gov.

U.S. Representative

Term: Two years ([U.S. Const Art. I, §2](#))

Qualifications:

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT: Must be an inhabitant of the state from which elected ([U.S. Const Art. I, §2](#))

MINIMUM AGE: 25 years ([U.S. Const Art. I, §2](#))

OTHER: Must be a U.S. citizen for seven years prior to election ([U.S. Const Art. I, §2](#))

FILING DEADLINE: By 4 p.m. on February 5, 2014, (90 days before the primary election) for party candidates, or by 4 p.m. on May 5, 2014, (one day before the primary election) for independent candidates ([R.C. 3513.05, 3513.257](#))

FILING FEE: \$85 ([R.C. 3513.10\(A\) and \(B\)](#))

PETITION FORM NUMBERS:

[#2-E](#) for party candidates (seeking nomination of political party to the general election through the primary election)

[#3-F](#) for independent candidates (candidates unaffiliated with a political party seeking nomination to the general election)

FILED WITH: Board of elections of the most populous county within the congressional district. ([R.C. 3513.05, 3513.257, 3513.261](#))

See page 22 for a list of most populous counties for the 2014 general election.

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS ([R.C. 3513.05, 3513.257](#)):

1. **Major party candidates:** 50 signatures
2. **Minor party candidates:** 25 signatures
3. **Independent candidates:** Based on the number of votes cast in the congressional district in the last general election for governor:

Number of votes cast	Number of signatures
Fewer than 5,000	25, or a number equal to 5 percent of the vote (whichever is less)
5,000 or more	1 percent of vote

Statewide Executive Offices

Governor and Lieutenant Governor (Joint Candidates)

Candidates for governor and lieutenant governor run as joint candidates. They must circulate and file a joint petition. A petition for the office of governor, alone, or the office of lieutenant governor, alone, cannot be filed. ([R.C. 3513.04](#), [3513.05](#), [3513.257](#))

Term: Four years ([OH Const. Art. III, §2](#))

Qualifications:

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT: Must be a resident of the state and a qualified elector ([OH Const. Art. V, §1](#), [OH Const. Art. XV, §4](#))

MINIMUM AGE: 18 years ([OH Const. Art. V, §1](#), [OH Const. Art. XV, §4](#))

FILING DEADLINES: By 4 p.m. on February 5, 2014 (90 days before the primary election) for party candidates; or by 4 p.m. on May 5, 2014 (one day before the primary election) for independent candidates ([R.C. 3513.05](#), [3513.257](#))

FILING FEE: \$150 ([R.C. 3513.10\(A\)](#), [\(B\)](#))

PETITION FORM NUMBERS:

[#2-A](#) for party candidates (seeking nomination of political party to the general election through the primary election)

[#3-B](#) for independent candidates (candidates unaffiliated with a political party seeking nomination to the general election)

[#14*](#) "Statement of Receiving or Providing Compensation for Circulating a State Candidate Petition"

***Note:** Any person who will receive compensation for supervising, managing, or otherwise organizing any effort to obtain signatures for a declaration of candidacy or nominating petition for a person seeking to become a candidate for a state executive office shall file Secretary of State [form #14](#) before any signatures are obtained for the petition, or before the person is engaged to supervise, manage, or otherwise organize the effort to obtain signatures for the petition, whichever is later. ([R.C. 3501.381](#))

FILED WITH: Secretary of State's Elections Division - Columbus
([R.C. 3513.05](#), [3513.257](#), [3513.261](#))

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS ([R.C. 3513.05](#), [3513.257](#)):

1. **Major party candidates:** 1,000 signatures
2. **Minor party candidates:** 500 signatures
3. **Independent candidates:** 5,000 signatures

Attorney General, Auditor of State, Secretary of State, Treasurer of State

Term: Four years ([OH Const. Art. III, §2](#))

Qualifications:

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT: Must be a resident of the state and a qualified elector ([OH Const. Art. V §1](#), [OH Const. Art. XV §4](#))

MINIMUM AGE: 18 years ([OH Const. Art. V, §1](#), [OH Const. Art. XV, §4](#))

FILING DEADLINES: By 4 p.m. on February 5, 2014 (90 days before the primary election) for party candidates; or by 4 p.m. on May 5, 2014 (one day before the primary election) for independent candidates ([R.C. 3513.05](#), [3513.257](#))

FILING FEE: \$150 ([R.C. 3513.10\(A\)](#), [\(B\)](#))

PETITION FORM NUMBERS:

[#2-B](#) for party candidates (seeking nomination of political party to the general election through the primary election)

[#3-C](#) for independent candidates (candidates unaffiliated with a political party seeking nomination to the general election)

[#14*](#) "Statement of Receiving or Providing Compensation for Circulating a State Candidate Petition"

***Note:** Any person who will receive compensation for supervising, managing, or otherwise organizing any effort to obtain signatures for a declaration of candidacy or nominating petition for a person seeking to become a candidate for a state executive office shall file Secretary of State [form #14](#) before any signatures are obtained for the petition, or before the person is engaged to supervise, manage, or otherwise organize the effort to obtain signatures for the petition, whichever is later. ([R.C. 3501.381](#))

FILED WITH: Secretary of State's Elections Division - Columbus ([R.C. 3513.05](#), [3513.257](#), [3513.261](#))

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS ([R.C. 3513.05](#), [3513.257](#)):

1. **Major party candidates:** 1,000 signatures
2. **Minor party candidates:** 500 signatures
3. **Independent candidates:** 5,000 signatures

Ohio General Assembly

State Senator, State Representative

Terms:

SENATOR: Four years ([OH Const Art. II, §2](#))

REPRESENTATIVE: Two years ([OH Const Art. II, §2](#))

Qualifications:

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT: Must be a resident of the district, have resided in the district for one year immediately preceding the election and be a qualified elector.
([R.C. 3.15](#), [OH Const Art II, §3](#), [OH Const Art XV, §4](#))

FILING DEADLINE: By 4 p.m. on February 5, 2014 (90 days before the primary election) for party candidates; or by 4 p.m. on May 5, 2014 (one day before the primary election) for independent candidates ([R.C. 3513.05](#), [3513.257](#))

FILING FEE: \$85 ([R.C. 3513.10\(A\) and \(B\)](#))

PETITION FORM NUMBERS:

[#2-F](#) for party candidates (seeking nomination of political party to the general election through the primary election)

[#3-G](#) for independent candidates (candidates unaffiliated with a political party seeking nomination to the general election)

FILED WITH: Board of elections of the most populous county within the district.
([R.C. 3513.05](#), [3513.257](#), [3513.261](#))

[See page 22 for a list of most populous counties for the 2014 general election.](#)

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS ([R.C. 3513.05](#), [3513.257](#)):

1. **Major party candidates:** 50 signatures
2. **Minor party candidates:** 25 signatures
3. **Independent candidates:** Based on the number of votes cast in the district in the last general election for governor:

Number of votes cast	Number of signatures
Fewer than 5,000	25, or a number equal to 5 percent of the vote (whichever is less)
5,000 or more	1 percent of vote

State Board of Education

Term: Four years ([R.C. 3301.02](#))

Qualifications:

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT: Must be a qualified elector residing in the district
([R.C. 3301.03](#), [OH Const Art XV, §4](#))

OTHER: Shall not, during the term of office, hold any other public position of trust or profit or be an employee or officer of any public or private elementary or secondary school ([R.C. 3301.03](#))

FILING DEADLINE: By 4 p.m. on August 6, 2014 (90 days before the general election)
([R.C. 3513.259](#))

FILING FEE: \$55 ([R.C. 3513.10\(A\) and \(B\)](#))

PETITION FORM NUMBER:
[#3-Z](#)

FILED WITH: Board of elections of the most populous county within the district.
([R.C. 3513.259](#))
[See page 22 for a list of most populous counties for the 2014 general election.](#)

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS: 100 signatures ([R.C. 3513.259](#))

County Administrative Offices

County Commissioner, County Auditor

Term: Four years ([R.C. 305.01](#), [319.01](#))

Qualifications:

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT: Must be a qualified elector of the county
([R.C. 3.15](#), [OH Const Art. XV, §4](#))

FILING DEADLINE: By 4 p.m. on February 5, 2014 (90 days before the primary election) for party candidates; or by 4 p.m. on May 5, 2014 (one day before the primary election) for independent candidates ([R.C. 3513.05](#), [3513.257](#))

FILING FEE: \$80 ([R.C. 3513.10\(A\) and \(B\)](#))

PETITION FORM NUMBERS:

[#2-G](#) for party candidates (seeking nomination of political party to the general election through the primary election)

[#3-H](#) for independent candidates (candidates unaffiliated with a political party seeking nomination to the general election)

FILED WITH: County board of elections ([R.C. 3513.05](#), [3513.257](#), [3513.261](#))

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS ([R.C. 3513.05](#), [3513.257](#)):

1. **Major party candidates:** 50 signatures
2. **Minor party candidates:** 25 signatures
3. **Independent candidates:** Based on the number of votes cast in the county in the last general election for governor:

Number of votes cast	Number of signatures
Fewer than 5,000	25, or a number equal to 5 percent of the vote (whichever is less)
5,000 or more	1 percent of vote

Judicial Offices

Supreme Court Justice

Term: Six years ([OH Const Art. IV, §6](#), [R.C. 2503.03](#))

Qualifications:

MAXIMUM AGE: 70 years ([OH Const Art. IV, §6](#))

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT: Must be a qualified elector residing in Ohio ([R.C. 2701.04](#), [OH Const Art. XV, §4](#))

OTHER: Must be admitted to practice as an attorney in this state and have, for a total of at least six years preceding the commencement of the term, engaged in the practice of law in Ohio or served as a judge of a court of record in any jurisdiction in the U.S., or both ([R.C. 2503.01](#))

FILING DEADLINE: By 4 p.m. on February 5, 2014, (90 days before the primary election) for party candidates; or by 4 p.m. on May 5, 2014, (one day before the primary election) for independent candidates ([R.C. 3513.05](#), [3513.257](#))

FILING FEE: \$150 ([R.C. 3513.10\(A\) and \(B\)](#))

PETITION FORM NUMBERS:

[#2-D](#) for party candidates (seeking nomination of political party to the general election through the primary election)

[#3-E](#) for independent candidates (candidates unaffiliated with a political party seeking nomination to the general election)

FILED WITH: Ohio Secretary of State's Election Division - Columbus ([R.C. 3513.05](#), [3513.257](#), [3513.261](#))

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS ([R.C. 3513.05](#), [3513.257](#)):

1. **Major party candidates:** 1,000 signatures
2. **Minor party candidates:** 500 signatures
3. **Independent candidates:** 5,000 signatures

Court of Appeals Judge

Term: Six years ([R.C. 2501.02](#))

Qualifications:

MAXIMUM AGE: 70 years ([OH Const Art. IV, §6](#))

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT: Must be a qualified elector residing in the district ([R.C. 2701.04](#), [OH Const Art. XV, §4](#))

OTHER: Must be admitted to practice as an attorney in this state and have, for a total of six years preceding the commencement of the term, engaged in the practice of law in Ohio or served as a judge of a court of record in any jurisdiction in the U.S., or both ([R.C. 2501.02](#))

FILING DEADLINE: By 4 p.m. on February 5, 2014, (90 days before the primary election) for party candidates; or by 4 p.m. on May 5, 2014, (one day before the primary election) for independent candidates ([R.C. 3513.05](#), [3513.257](#))

FILING FEE: \$80 ([R.C. 3513.10\(A\) and \(B\)](#))

PETITION FORM NUMBERS:

[#2-FJ](#) for party candidates (seeking nomination of political party to the general election through the primary election)

[#3-G](#) for independent candidates (candidates unaffiliated with a political party seeking nomination to the general election)

FILED WITH: Board of elections of the most populous county within the district. ([R.C. 3513.05](#), [3513.257](#), [3513.261](#))

See page 22 for a list of most populous counties for the 2014 general election.

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS ([R.C. 3513.05](#), [3513.257](#)):

1. **Major party candidates:** 50 signatures
2. **Minor party candidates:** 25 signatures
3. **Independent candidates:** Based on the number of votes cast in the district in the last general election for governor:

Number of votes cast	Number of Signatures
Fewer than 5,000	25, or a number equal to 5 percent of the vote (whichever is less)
5,000 or more	1 percent of vote

Court of Common Pleas Judge

Term: Six years ([R.C. 2301.01](#))

Qualifications:

MAXIMUM AGE: 70 years ([OH Const Art. IV, §6](#))

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT: Must be a qualified elector residing in the county ([R.C. 2301.01](#), [2701.04](#), [OH Const, Art. XV, §4](#))

OTHER: Must be admitted to practice as an attorney in this state and have, for a total of at least six years preceding the commencement of the term, engaged in the practice of law in Ohio or served as a judge of a court of record in any jurisdiction in the U.S., or both ([R.C. 2301.01](#))

FILING DEADLINE: By 4 p.m. on February 5, 2014, (90 days before the primary election) for party candidates; or by 4 p.m. on May 5, 2014, (one day before the primary election) for independent candidates ([R.C. 3513.05](#), [3513.257](#))

FILING FEE: \$80 ([R.C. 3513.10\(A\) and \(B\)](#))

PETITION FORM NUMBERS:

[#2-GJ](#) for party candidates (seeking nomination of political party to the general election through the primary election)

[#3-H](#) for independent candidates (candidates unaffiliated with a political party seeking nomination to the general election)

FILED WITH: County board of elections ([R.C. 3513.05](#), [3513.257](#), [3513.261](#))

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS ([R.C. 3513.05](#), [3513.257](#)):

1. **Major party candidates:** 50 signatures
2. **Minor party candidates:** 25 signatures
3. **Independent candidates:** Based on the number of votes cast in the county in the last general election for governor:

Number of votes cast	Number of signatures
Fewer than 5,000	25, or a number equal to 5 percent of the vote (whichever is less)
5,000 or more	1 percent of vote

County Court Judge

Term: Six years ([R.C. 1907.13](#))

Qualifications:

MAXIMUM AGE: 70 years ([OH Const Art. IV, §6](#))

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT: Must be a qualified elector residing in the county court district ([R.C. 1907.13](#), [OH Const Art. XV, §4](#))

OTHER: Must be admitted to practice as an attorney in this state and have been, for a total of at least six years, engaged in the practice of law in Ohio ([R.C. 1907.13](#))

FILING DEADLINE: By 4 p.m. on August 6, 2014 (90 days before the general election) ([R.C. 1907.13](#))

FILING FEE: \$80 ([R.C. 3513.10 \(A\) and \(B\)](#))

PETITION FORM NUMBER:

[#3-J](#)

FILED WITH: County board of elections ([R.C. 3513.261](#))

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS: 50, or a number not less than 1 percent of the number of electors who voted for governor at the most recent general election for governor in the district, whichever is less ([R.C. 1907.13](#))

Political Party Controlling Committees

Major Political Party, State Central Committee

Term: Two or four years, per party rules; currently, both major parties (Democratic and Republican) have two-year terms ([R.C. 3517.03](#))

Qualifications:

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT: Must be a qualified elector residing in the district from which elected ([R.C. 3517.02](#), [OH Const Art. XV, §4](#))

FILING DEADLINE: By 4 p.m. on February 5, 2014 (90 days before the primary election) ([R.C. 3513.05](#))

FILING FEE: None ([R.C. 3513.10\(C\)](#))

PETITION FORM NUMBER:

[#2-J](#)

FILED WITH: Board of elections of the most populous county in the state senate or state congressional district, as determined by outgoing party controlling committee. (For both major political parties, state central committee members are currently elected by state senatorial district.)

([R.C. 3513.05](#), [3517.03](#))

[See page 22 for a list of most populous counties for the 2014 general election.](#)

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS: Five signatures ([R.C. 3513.05](#))

Major Political Party, County Central Committee

Term: Two or four years, per party rules ([R.C. 3517.03](#))

Qualifications:

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT: Must be a qualified elector residing in the election precinct, city, ward or township from which elected, as determined by the outgoing committee ([R.C. 3517.02](#), [OH Const Art. XV, §4](#))

FILING DEADLINE: By 4 p.m. on February 5, 2014 (90 days before the primary election) ([R.C. 3513.05](#))

FILING FEE: None ([R.C. 3513.10\(C\)](#))

PETITION FORM NUMBER:

[#2-L](#) or
[#2-M](#), per party determination

FILED WITH: County board of elections ([R.C. 3513.05](#), [3517.03](#))

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS:

[#2-L](#) Five signatures, per party determination ([R.C. 3513.05](#))
[#2-M](#) No signatures, per party determination ([R.C. 3513.051](#))

Write-in Candidates

Any person wanting to be a write-in candidate must file a Declaration of Intent to be a Write-In Candidate, Secretary of State [form #13](#).

Only write-in candidates who have filed a valid declaration of intent will have votes counted in the election for which the candidate filed. ([R.C. 3513.041](#))

A write-in candidate must meet all of the eligibility requirements of the office being sought. (See specific office for qualifications.)

A write-in candidate must file his or her [form #13](#) with the appropriate county board of elections. Please review the "Filed With" section of the office being sought for additional guidance.

A declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate in the primary election must be filed no later than 4 p.m. on February 24, 2014 (72 days before the May 6 primary election). ([R.C. 3513.041](#))

A declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate in the general election must be filed no later than 4 p.m. on August 25, 2014 (72 days before the November 4 general election). ([R.C. 3513.041](#))

A write-in candidate must pay the same filing fee as any other candidate for the office. ([R.C. 3513.10](#))

No write-in space may appear for the office of state central committee of a political party in Ohio. ([OAG 70-011](#))

Political Party Affiliation of Candidates for Party Nomination

A person may be a candidate for nomination of any political party at a primary election (regardless of party affiliation established by voting in a prior partisan primary) if either of the following apply:

- The person does not hold an elective office, or
- The person holds an elective office other than one for which candidates are nominated at a primary election.

However, a person holding an elective office for which candidates are nominated at a party primary may become a candidate for a different political party if the person completes and files the Secretary of State's prescribed [form #10-Y](#), Declaration of Intent to Change Political Party Affiliation, by 4 p.m. on the 30th day before the filing deadline for the primary election. The completed [form #10-Y](#) must be filed with the same elections official (e.g., Secretary of State or county board of elections) with which the person is required to file his or her declaration of candidacy and petition.

A person may file such declaration of intent only once during a period of 10 years after filing a first declaration of intent. ([R.C. 3513.191](#))

Please see [R.C. 3513.04](#) and [3513.052](#) for further candidacy information.

Independent Candidates

An independent candidate must actually be unaffiliated from any political party, and the required claim of being unaffiliated must be made in good faith for the candidate to be qualified to run as an independent candidate. *Morrison v. Colley*, 467 F.3d 503 (6th Cir. 2006); *Jolivette v. Husted*, 694 F.3d 760 (6th Cir. 2012).

At the time a prospective independent candidate (other than a judicial candidate) files his or her nominating petition, the candidate may request to have the designation "nonparty candidate" or "other party candidate" printed underneath the candidate's name on the ballot (the designation "independent" may not appear on the ballot). Such request must be given to the office at which the nominating petition was filed. ([R.C. 3505.03](#), [3513.257](#))

Please see specific office being sought for qualifications, signature requirements and filing deadlines.

Restrictions on Filing for Multiple Offices

No person shall seek nomination or election to any of the following offices or positions at the same election by filing a declaration of candidacy and petition, declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate, or a nominating petition, or by becoming a candidate through a party nomination in a primary election, or by filling of a vacancy under [R.C. 3513.30](#) or [3513.31](#):

- Two or more state offices;
- Two or more county offices;
- A state office and a county office;
- A federal and a state or county office; or
- Any combination of two or more municipal or township offices, positions as a member of a city, local, or exempted village board of education, or position as a member of a governing board of an educational service center. ([R.C. 3513.052](#))

The only exception to this prohibition is if a person “timely withdraws” his or her candidacy. Therefore, a candidate who timely withdraws his or her candidacy prior to board action on his or her petition and prior to the filing deadline may file a new petition for the same or a different office in the same election as the withdrawn petition. (*State ex rel. Coble v. Lucas County Board of Elections* (2011), 130 Ohio St.3d 132, 956 N.E.2d 282, 2011-Ohio-4550). Pursuant to [R.C. 3513.052\(G\)\(2\)](#), “timely withdraws” means either of the following:

- Withdrawing as a candidate before the applicable filing deadline for filing a declaration of candidacy, declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate, or nominating petition for the subsequent office for which the person is seeking to become a candidate at the same election, or
- Withdrawing as a candidate before the applicable deadline for the filling of a vacancy under section [3513.30](#) or [3513.31](#) of the Revised Code, if the person is seeking to become a candidate for a subsequent office at the same election under either of those sections.

A candidate may only withdraw his or her candidacy. Once filed, a candidate may not withdraw the petition or other forms used to initiate his or her candidacy.

Petitions

County boards of elections will provide a candidate with a sufficient number of petition forms. Candidates are permitted to make copies of the forms in the manner they were provided.

Petitions contain three separate sections:

1. The Statement of Candidacy;
2. The Nominating Petition; and
3. The Circulator's Statement.

Rules Governing Petitions

1. The "Statement of Candidacy" portion of each petition paper must be completely filled out and signed by the candidate(s) before being circulated. ([R.C. 3513.07](#), [3513.09](#), [3513.261](#))
2. Candidates for county commissioner or judge must designate the term of office on the declaration of candidacy or nominating petition, if more than one office is to be elected at the election. ([R.C. 3513.08](#), [3513.28](#))
3. Only qualified electors who are eligible to vote on the candidacy may sign a petition. An elector's qualifications are determined as of the date the petition is filed. ([R.C. 3501.38 \(A\)](#))
4. Each signature, written in ink, must be an original signature of an elector or the elector's duly appointed attorney-in-fact who is acting pursuant to R.C. 3501.382. "Signature" is defined in statute as a person's written, cursive-style legal mark written in his or her own hand unless the elector does not use a cursive-style mark during the course of his or her regular business or legal affairs. ([R.C. 3501.38 \(B\)](#), [3501.382](#), [3501.011](#))
5. Each signer's residence address and the date of signing must be placed on the petition after the elector's signature. The voting address written on the petition must be the address appearing in the registration records of the board of elections. ([R.C. 3501.38 \(C\)](#))
6. Petitions for a candidate for party nomination must be signed and circulated by persons who are members of the same political party as the candidate. ([R.C. 3513.07](#)) An elector is considered to be a member of a political party if he or she voted in the primary election of that party within the preceding two calendar years, or if he or she did not vote in any other party's primary election within the preceding two calendar years. ([R.C. 3513.05, 7th paragraph](#))

(this section continues on the next page)

7. A candidate may circulate his or her own petition, although he or she may not sign his or her own petition as an elector. For purposes of circulating his or her own petition, a candidate is exempted from the party affiliation requirements described in [number 6 of this section](#). ([R.C. 3513.191\(C\)\(4\)](#)) A circulator may not sign the same petition paper that he or she is circulating; a circulator may, however, sign a petition paper being circulated for the same candidacy by a different circulator.
8. A circulator must be a resident of Ohio and at least 18 years of age. ([R.C. 3503.06\(C\)](#))
9. After circulating the petition, the circulator must sign a statement, under penalty of election falsification indicating the following:
 - a. The number of signatures contained on the petition;
 - b. That the circulator witnessed the affixing of each signature on the petition;
 - c. That all signers, to the best of the circulator's knowledge and belief, were qualified to sign; and
 - d. That each signature is, to the best of the circulator's knowledge and belief, the signature of the person whose signature it purports to be.If a circulator knowingly permits an unqualified person to sign a petition paper or permits a person to write a name other than the person's own on the petition paper, that petition paper is invalid; otherwise, the signature of a person not qualified to sign shall be rejected but shall not invalidate the other valid signatures on the petition paper. ([R.C. 3501.38\(F\)](#))
10. Once a candidate's petition has been filed with the appropriate election official, it cannot be changed, supplemented, or returned to the candidate.
11. The original petition with the candidate's original signature must be filed at the same time as all part petitions are filed. ([R.C. 3501.38\(K\)](#), [3513.09](#))
12. Each petition paper shall be circulated by one person only, and shall contain signatures of qualified electors of one county only. When petitions are circulated in a district that contains more than one county, separate petition papers must be circulated in each county. ([R.C. 3501.38](#), [3513.05](#), [3513.07](#), [3513.261](#))
13. No petition, except a petition for a candidacy that is to be submitted to electors throughout the entire state, shall be accepted if it contains more than three times the minimum number of required signatures. ([R.C. 3513.05](#), [3513.257](#), [3513.259](#))
14. All petitions must contain the following statement in boldface capital letters:
"WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE." ([R.C. 3501.38\(J\)](#), [3599.36](#))
Note: The penalties for a fifth degree felony conviction are 6 to 12 months in prison and/or a fine of \$2,500.
15. All petitions remain open for public inspection, under reasonable regulations, at the board of elections at which they were filed. ([R.C. 3513.05](#), [3513.262](#))

Protests

Generally

Protests against the candidacy of any person certified to appear on the ballot must be in writing, must specify the legal ground(s) for the protest, and must be filed with the board of elections with which the candidate filed his/her declaration of candidacy, nominating petition, or declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate. If the candidate filed with the office of the Secretary of State, the protest must be filed with the Secretary of State. ([R.C. 3513.041](#), [3513.05](#), [3513.262](#), [3513.263](#))

After a valid protest is filed, the board of elections or, if applicable, the Secretary of State, must set a time and place for hearing the protest and give notice both to the person whose candidacy is being protested and the protester. Both the protester and the protested candidate, or his or her respective legal counsel, will have the opportunity to address the board or Secretary of State hearing officer at the hearing. ([R.C. 3513.041](#), [3513.05](#), [3513.262](#), [3513.263](#))

Partisan Primary Candidacy

Protests against a candidate in a partisan primary may be made by the controlling committee of that party, or by any qualified elector who is a member of the same party as the candidate and who is eligible to vote for the candidate whose petition is the subject of the protest. ([R.C. 3513.041](#), [3513.05](#), [3517.014](#), [3517.015](#))

The deadline to file a protest against any candidate who filed a declaration of candidacy and nominating petition for the May 6 partisan primary is 4 p.m. on February 21, 2014 (74th day before the primary election). ([R.C. 3513.05](#))

The deadline to protest a write-in candidacy for the May 6 primary is 4 p.m. on February 28, 2014 (67th day before the primary election). ([R.C. 3513.041](#))

Independent Candidacy

Protests against an independent candidate may be made by any qualified voter who is eligible to vote for the candidate whose petition is the subject of the protest. The deadline to file a protest against any candidate who filed a nominating petition as an independent candidate is 4 p.m. on July 30, 2014. ([R.C. 3513.262](#))

Nonpartisan Candidacy

Any elector eligible to vote on the candidacy of a candidate for nonpartisan office may protest that candidacy. The protest filing deadline is 4 p.m. on August 22, 2014 (74th day before the general election). ([R.C. 3513.263](#))

Write-In Candidacy - General Election

Any elector eligible to vote on the candidacy of a write-in candidate may protest that candidacy. The protest filing deadline is 4 p.m. on August 29, 2014

Unexpired Terms

Generally

Several statutes govern candidacies for unexpired term elections. [R.C. 3513.31](#) is a general statute that always should be consulted in connection with an unexpired term election for an office that, under Ohio law, is subject to party primaries. [R.C. 3513.31\(I\)](#) provides how and when party nominees are selected for unexpired term elections for such offices, while [R.C. 3513.31\(J\)](#) describes how persons become independent candidates for those unexpired term elections.

Candidates seeking nomination/election to an office for the balance of an unexpired term must include the term-ending date on the petition. Ohio law requires each person filing a declaration of candidacy or a nominating petition as a candidate for the unexpired term of any office shall designate the date on which that unexpired term will end. ([R.C. 3513.08](#), [3513.28](#)) Failure to provide the correct term-ending date on the petition may result in the petition being invalidated.

Death or Withdrawal of Candidate

A candidate may withdraw his or her candidacy by filing a written statement of withdrawal with the appropriate board of elections at any time prior to the primary or general election. ([R.C. 3513.30](#))

If a candidate dies, the candidate's party organization, committee or family should notify the appropriate county board of elections of the death.

The law provides various procedures for the replacement of a candidate who dies or withdraws during the election cycle. The procedures to be followed will be dictated by the specific facts surrounding the vacancy on the ballot (e.g., the office involved, why the vacancy occurred, the time remaining before the election, etc.). The two statutes that generally govern vacancies on the ballot are: [R.C. 3513.30](#) (death of candidate before a primary election, withdrawal of candidacy before or after a primary election) and [R.C. 3513.31](#) (filling vacancies in party, independent, and nonpartisan nominations).

Campaign Finance Reporting

Generally

At the time petitions of candidacy are filed, each candidate should receive materials from the board of elections about campaign finance compliance and reporting.

Additional information regarding campaign finance rules, reporting requirements, and filing deadlines may be found in the online [*Campaign Finance Handbook, 2014 Ohio Elections Calendar*](#), and other publications located on the [*Ohio Secretary of State's website*](#).

Declaration of Filing-Day Finances and/or Permissive Funds Reports to be Filed by Candidates for Statewide Office, the General Assembly, and State Board of Education

During a year in which its candidate is on the ballot, the campaign committee of a candidate for statewide office or member of the general assembly must file one or two special reports regarding permissive or excess funds. The definition of "state office" includes State Board of Education, but does not include the Ohio Supreme Court. ([*R.C. 3517.109*](#)) For more information on these special requirements, candidates and committee treasurers should review the [*Campaign Finance Handbook, available on the Secretary of State's website*](#).

Personal Financial Disclosure Statement

Any individual who becomes a candidate for or holds a state, county or city elected office, or the position of school board member in a school district with more than 12,000 students average daily membership, is required to file a personal financial disclosure statement. All public officials and candidates for elected office file statements with the Ohio Ethics Commission, except members of and candidates for the General Assembly, who file with the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee, and judges, who file with the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline of the Supreme Court.

For further information on the filing requirements and deadlines or to find a copy of a blank statement, visit the Ohio Ethics Commission's website at: www.ethics.ohio.gov. If further information is needed, please contact the Commission at (614) 466-7090.

Candidates for the Ohio General Assembly may obtain additional information by contacting the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee at: (614) 728-5100 or www.jlec-olig.state.oh.us.

Judicial candidates can find information at: www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/Judiciary/candidates/ or call the office of the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline at (614) 387-9370.

2014 Ohio Elections Calendar

[*Click here for the 2014 election calendar.*](#)

Most Populous Counties by District

Congressional	House	Senate	State Bd. Of Education	Court of Appeals
1 Hamilton	38 Summit	1 Hancock	1 Allen	1 Hamilton
2 Hamilton	43 Montgomery	2 Wood	2 Lucas	2 Montgomery
3 Franklin	47 Lucas	5 Montgomery	3 Montgomery	3 Allen
4 Lorain	54 Warren	7 Warren	4 Hamilton	4 Scioto
5 Lucas	57 Lorain	10 Greene	5 Cuyahoga	5 Stark
6 Columbiana	64 Trumbull	12 Allen	6 Franklin	6 Lucas
7 Stark	66 Clermont	13 Lorain	7 Trumbull	7 Mahoning
8 Butler	68 Knox	14 Clermont	8 Stark	8 Cuyahoga
9 Cuyahoga	70 Medina	17 Ross	9 Franklin	9 Summit
10 Montgomery	72 Licking	18 Portage	10 Clermont	10 Franklin
11 Cuyahoga	74 Greene	19 Delaware	11 Cuyahoga	11 Lake
12 Franklin	76 Geauga	20 Fairfield		12 Butler
13 Summit	78 Pickaway	22 Medina		
14 Lake	80 Miami	25 Cuyahoga		
15 Franklin	81 Williams	26 Marion		
16 Cuyahoga	82 Defiance	27 Summit		
	83 Hancock	30 Belmont		
	84 Mercer	31 Licking		
	85 Champaign	32 Trumbull		
	86 Marion	33 Mahoning		
	87 Crawford			
	88 Sandusky			
	89 Erie			
	90 Scioto			
	91 Highland			
	92 Ross			
	93 Lawrence			
	94 Athens			
	95 Belmont			
	96 Jefferson			
	97 Muskingum			
	98 Tuscarawas			
	99 Ashtabula			



Jon Husted

Ohio Secretary of State



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